

REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the notification of allowable subject matter, i.e., that claims 1-6 and 10-19 are allowed over the prior art, and claims 31 and 33-35 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Claims 1-6, 10-19, 27, 28, 31, 32, and 36-59 are pending in the application. Claims 27, 31, and 32 have been amended, and new claims 38-59 have been added by the present amendment. Claims 29, 30, and 33-35 have been canceled without prejudice. The amendments are fully supported by the specification as originally filed.

In the Office Action of 05/27/2005, claims 29 and 30 were rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite because of the phrase "separating means ... thus unlocking the disc." Claims 29 and 30 have been canceled without prejudice, thereby obviating the rejection. It is noted that the subject matter of claims 29 and 30 has been incorporated into new claims 46 and 47, which depend from claims 27 and 45, and recite details of the interaction between the disc projecting section of the disc holding lock and a projected section of the disc drive (see also specification at page 32, first full paragraph).

Claims 27, 29, 30, 32, 36, and 37 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Japanese Publication 04-067486 ("the '486 publication"). Claim 28 was rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over the '486 publication. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Enclosed herewith is an Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) accompanied by a full English-language translation (hereinafter "Translation") of the '486 publication. The '486 publication was already submitted in the IDS filed on December 6, 2004; however, the full English-language translation was not available at that time. The Examiner is respectfully requested to consider the full translation of the '486 publication.

Independent claim 27 has been amended to recite a disc holding lock, provided on the disc cover, for mechanically holding an outer circumference part of the disc (see, e.g., disc holding lock 26, as shown in FIG. 7(b) of the application). As recited in claim 27, one end of the disc holding lock holds the disc, and the other end moves to switch over the one end between a holding position over the disc and a non-holding state. Claim 27 also recites a projecting section for unlocking the disc holding lock is projected into a ditch provided on a side wall of the disc cover (see, e.g., projecting section 27 projected into a guide ditch 28, as shown in FIG. 7(b)). Applicants' claimed invention is exemplified by the embodiment depicted in FIGS. 7(a) and 7(b) of the application, as described on page 29, last paragraph to page 32 of the specification.

The '486 publication does not teach or suggest a disc cartridge having a disc holding lock such that when the disc holding lock is positioned to hold the disc, a projecting section for unlocking the disc holding lock is projected into a ditch provided on a side wall of the disc cover.

The '486 publication is directed to an optical disc cartridge having an information recording surface on only one side of the disc (see page 3, last full paragraph of Translation). Referring to FIG. 1 of the '486 publication, a case 1 includes a recess section 2, edge sections 3 and 4, and an opening section 6 (see page 4, third paragraph). The case 1 is provided with a shutter 5 "that is freely slidable," where the shutter 5 is biased by a twist spring 7 to force the opening section 6 into a normally closed state (see page 4, fourth paragraph). As shown in FIG. 2, the shutter 5 "is provided with hook sections 9 and 10 at both edges thereof," where the hook sections 9 and 10 serve as "holding means" (page 4, fourth paragraph). Referring to FIG. 3, when the optical disc cartridge is in use, an optical disc 8 becomes unhooked from the hook sections 9 and 10 (see page 5, second paragraph of Translation).

However, the '486 publication does not teach or suggest a disc holding lock as recited in claim 27. In particular, there is no teaching or suggestion that when a disc holding lock is positioned to hold the disc, a projecting section for unlocking the disc holding lock is projected into a ditch provided on a side wall of the disc cover.

In the Office Action of 05/27/2005, "a groove next to the opening 6 of the disc cover" was cited as corresponding to the Applicants' claimed "ditch" of the disc holding lock. However, the "groove" noted by the Examiner is actually used to contain the twist spring 7. There is no teaching or suggestion in the '486 publication of a projecting section for unlocking the disc holding lock that is projected into a ditch provided on the side wall of the disc cover.

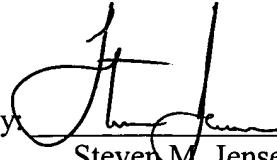
Moreover, the '486 publication does not teach or suggest a disc holding *lock*, as recited in claim 27. As described in the '486 publication, the shutter 5 is biased by the twist spring 7 such that the opening section 6 is in a normally closed state (see page 4, fourth paragraph of Translation). There is no teaching or suggestion that the shutter 5 is somehow *locked* over the disc. It is apparent that the shutter 5, as disclosed in the '486 publication, can be moved manually. However, the Applicants' claimed invention recites a locking structure that cannot be released easily by manipulating the lock from outside of the cartridge.

For at least the reasons discussed above, the '486 publication does not anticipate or otherwise render obvious the Applicants' claimed invention.

It is believed the application is in condition for immediate allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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